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Brigg Urban District

ANNUAL HEALTH REPORT

1944

(Containing Vital Statistics of the Area from 1938 to 1944)

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EXOR. W. B. ROBINSON, PRINTER

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BRIGG URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Office of the Medical Officer of Health

Bridge Street,

Brigg.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
BRIGG URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Gentlemen

I herewith present to you the Annual Report for Brigg Urban District for the year 1944 with a Summary of vital statistics for the period 1939-1943. Owing to the war it was not possible to render a report in detail for those years at the time. This was due to increased work, largely at night on Civil Defence Services including Lectures, Practical Instruction and examination of the Local Civil Defence Personnel. I was also in charge of the Mobile Ambulance Unit (First Aid Post) for Brigg and district. Records however of these years have been carefully kept throughout.

I am indebted to Mr. J. J. Magrath, Clerk to the Council, for assistance in the conduct and recording of Diphtheria Immunization Sessions. I also acknowledge my indebtedness to Mr. N. D. Preston, Sanitary Inspector for part of the information contained in this report. Herein contained is also the Report of the present Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor, Mr. Anderson to whom I am also indebted.

I have the Honour to be, Gentlemen

Yours faithfully

FRANCIS J. O. KING, M.B.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area in acres (Land and Water)	982
Population (Registrar General 1944)	3878
Census Population 1931	4019
No. of Inhabited Houses (estimated)	1112
Rateable Value, 1938	£19,725
Rateable Value, 1944	£21,802
Product of a Penny Rate, 1944	£82
No. of State aided houses, owned by Council	356

VITAL STATISTICS 1938

Live Births—Total 68 (40 males 28 females) Illegitimate nil
Birth Rate 15.88
Still Births—Total 6 (5 males, 1 female) all Legitimate.
Infantile Mortality Rate per 1000 (Live and Still) 81.08.
Deaths—Total 41 (males 28, females 13).
Death Rate 9.57.
Women dying in Childbirth 2 (a) From Sepsis nil (b) Other causes 2.
Deaths from Measles nil.
Deaths from Whooping Cough, nil.
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years) nil.
Deaths from Cancer, 6 (3 males, 3 females).

VITAL STATISTICS—1939.

Live Births :	Total	Males	Females
Legitimate	49	27	22
Illegitimate	1	1	—

Still Births—1 Legitimate female. Illegitimate nil.
Still Births Rate (per 1000 Births Live and Still) = 19.61.
Birth Rate—11.55.
Deaths—Total 60 (29 males, 31 females).
Death Rate—13.78.
No. of Women dying in Child birth, nil.
Deaths infants under 1 year—1 male, 1 female.
Deaths Infants under 1 year (per 1000 net births) 38.46.
Deaths from Measles (all ages) nil.
Deaths from Whooping Cough—nil.
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years) nil.
Deaths from Cancer—9 (5 males, 4 females).

VITAL STATISTICS—1940

Live Births :	Total	Males	Females
Legitimate	69	36	33
Illegitimate	2	—	2

Stillbirths—2 legitimate males.
Still birth Rate (per 1000 Live and Still) = 27.39.
Birth Rate — 16.87.
Deaths—Total 53 (21 males, 32 females).
Death Rate — 12.59.
No. of Women dying in Child birth—nil.
Deaths of Infants under 1 year (per 1000 net-births) 56.33.
Deaths from Measles—nil.
Deaths from Whooping Cough—nil.
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years) nil.
Deaths from Cancer—7 (2 males, 5 females).

VITAL STATISTICS—1941

Live Births :	Total	Males	Females
Legitimate	59	32	27
Illegitimate	6	2	4

Stillbirths—3 Legitimate females.
Stillbirth rate (per 1000 Live and Still) = 44.13.
Birth Rate—15.95.
Deaths—Total 40 (18 males, 22 females).
Death Rate—9.82.
No. of Women dying in Childbirth—nil.
Deaths of Infants under 1 year (per 1000 net-births) 44.1.
Deaths from Measles—nil.
Deaths from Whooping Cough—1.
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years) nil.
Deaths from Cancer—4 (3 males, 1 female).

VITAL STATISTICS—1942

Live Births :	Total	Males	Females
Legitimate	75	35	40
Illegitimate	7	4	3

Stillbirths—3 Legitimate (1 male, 2 females).
Stillbirth Rate (per 1000 Live and Still) = 35.41.
Birth Rate — 20.5.
Deaths—Total 51 (28 males, 23 females).
Death Rate—12.75.
No. of Women dying in Childbirth (a) From Sepsis nil. (b) Other Causes 1.
Deaths of Infants under 1 year (per 1000 net births) 60.97.
Deaths from Measles—nil.
Deaths from Whooping Cough—nil.
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years) nil.
Deaths from Cancer—9 (5 males, 4 females).

VITAL STATISTICS—1943

Live Births :	Total	Males	Females
Legitimate	68	39	29
Illegitimate	6	4	2

Stillbirths—1 male.
Stillbirth Rate (per 1000 Live and Still) = 13.33.
Birth Rate—18.80.
Deaths—Total 54 (20 males, 34 females).
Death Rate—13.21.
No. of Women dying in Childbirth—nil.
Deaths of Infants under 1 year (per 1000 net births) 27.02.
Deaths from Measles—nil.
Deaths from Whooping Cough—nil.
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years) nil.
Deaths from Cancer 10 (5 males, 5 females).

VITAL STATISTICS—1944.

Live Births :	Total	Males	Females
Legitimate	73	30	43
Illegitimate	6	3	3

Stillbirths—1 Legitimate female.
Stillbirths Rate—12.50.
Birth Rate—20.37.
Deaths—Total 40 (17 males, 23 females).
Death Rate—10.31.
No. of Women dying in Childbirth—nil.
Deaths from Measles—nil.
Deaths from Whooping Cough—nil.
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years) nil.
Deaths from Cancer—3 females.

AIR RAID PRECAUTIONS

During the war years a First-Aid post was established at the Clinic Bigby Road and a continual rota of Duty on alerts was maintained. The personnel were both male and female and a Mobile First Aid Post with complete equipment to deal with casualties on the spot was maintained. Weekly practices and Lectures and Instruction in First Aid were given. A large number of the Personnel were members of Lincoln 14 V.A.D. Detachment British Red Cross. The Medical Officer of Health was in charge. He also gave Instruction in First Aid and examined, Police, Fire Service, Wardens, Factory Workers and classes at Broughton, Wrawby and Scawby.

One Medical Practitioner was absent from Brigg on Military Service from 1939 to 1945.

HEALTH OF THE DISTRICT DURING THE WAR YEARS

This was good on the whole and with the exception of epidemics of Scarlet Fever and Measles and Chickenpox, compares favourably with previous years (See table of Infectious Disease.) With regard to the Scarlet Fever this was coincident with epidemics in neighbouring Sanitary areas and as far as Brigg is concerned the figures are increased by the presence in Brigg of Educational Establishments which have a daily as well as a resident population. Isolation and segregation does not always control re-infection.

The Scarlet fever was of a very mild type.

Measles and Chickenpox also were epidemic (see table) but it must be remembered that this occurred generally throughout the Country. These two diseases were made notifiable in 1940. This also applies to whooping cough.

It will be noticed that the Pneumonia Rate of Incidence is high. No doubt this was due to dietary restrictions and the change of occupations and habits resulting from war conditions.

During the war all military cases of Infectious Diseases were notified to your medical officer and their Isolation in Hospital was conducted through the ordinary Civilian channels.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health—Francis J. O. King, B.A., M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O. (Dublin University).

Sanitary Inspector, Surveyor and Water Engineer—1938 to May 1944, N. D. Preston Esq.

Sanitary Inspector, Surveyor and Water Engineer—since 1944, A. Anderson, Esq.

CLERICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL WORK.

During the war the County Laboratory has been closed. This work is now done by Dr. Crowle, Emergency Public Health Laboratory, Technical College, Lincoln.

SCHOOLS

The condition of the Schools as regards sanitation is excellent. Increased accommodation is required by nearly all of them. The premises of the Brigg Catholic School could be modernised with advantage. This is also true of the Brigg's Infants Elementary School.

I would again emphasize the advantages of Gymnasia in all Schools.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

During the War years the incidence of major Infectious disease was very low. This may be attributed to increased open air work, extra milk and meals for School children and Diphtheria Immunization. It is the more noteworthy in that this area from the proximity of troops was exposed to more risk of inward Infection. The total of Diseases is shewn in tabular form in this report. (table A).

During 1940 Measles and Whooping Cough were made notifiable.

In 1939 a **severe** epidemic of Measles occurred in Brigg in common with most other parts of England. This continued into 1940. In 1944 there was a small epidemic of Whooping Cough of a mild type.

In 1942, 1943 and 1944, **Scarlet fever** figures were high in common with the neighbouring areas. Of these cases those in 1944 were increased by contact cases in a local educational establishment drawing puplis from a wide area. This was quite inevitable. Total cases in area in 1944 numbered 28.

The figures for **Diphtheria**, 6 cases during 8 years, are a triumph for Immunization. In the late Summer of 1944 there were 37 cases of **Whooping Cough.**

It will be noted that from 1939 onwards Pneumonia shewed a marked increase.

TABLE "A"

	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	2	—	1	1	—	—	2
Scarlet Fever	1	—	1	5	5	21	18	28
Typhoid	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
Pneumonia	8	3	4	13	5	17	16	18
Pulmonary T.B. ..	2	6	2	1	—	1	4	2
Non-Pulmonary T.B.	—	1	2	1	5	1	2	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
C.S. Meningitis ..	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	1	5	5	2	3	3	6	6
Measles	10	—	128	114	5	11	82	19
Chickenpox	10	31	17	6	18	8	1	6
Whooping Cough ..	—	5	3	4	17	2	12	37
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ..	—	1	—	1	1	—	1	—

TUBERCULOSIS

Brigg is a small district and therefore does not provide useful Statistics as regards Tuberculosis. Cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis notified during 1944 numbered 2 both males, ages 19 and 25 years. No female cases occurred. Two cases were added to the Register both males from the services. These however were not resident in Brigg at the time. There were 3 deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis during the year all females.

HOSPITALS SERVING THE BRIGG AREA

General Voluntary.
Scunthorpe War Memorial.
Lincoln County Hospital.
Grimsby and District Hospital.

Public Health Hospitals (County Council).
Brigg County Infirmary.
Louth County Infirmary.

Infectious Disease Hospitals.
Brumby Isolation Hospital.
Osgodby Isolation Hospital.
Corporation Hospital Scartho.

Tuberculosis Hospitals.
Branston Hall Lincoln.
Brumby Isolation Hospital.
Corporation Hospital Scarthoe.

Maternity Homes.
Scunthorpe Maternity Home.
Cleethorpes Maternity Home.
Gainsboro Maternity Home.

Smallpox Hospital.
Osgodby Joint Board Isolation Hospital.

Mental Disease.
Brace Bridge Mental Hospital.
Caistor Institution for Mental Defectives.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNIZATION

In 1941 the Clerk to the Council issued a notice to all householders and parents of children enclosing a card for completion and offering Immunization Free. Very numerous sessions have been held mostly at Glebe Road Schools and about 75% of the towns children have been immunized against Diphtheria. Coincidentally, Children under School age have been immunized by private practioners and by the Infant Welfare and School clinics of the Lindsey County Council.

EXTRACT FROM COUNTY MEDICAL OFFICERS REPORT, 1944

TABLE SHOWING THE PERCENTAGE OF THE SCHOOL POPULATION IMMUNIZED AGAINST DIPHTHERIA

Urban Districts	%	Rural Districts	%
Alford	—	Caistor	86
Brigg	75	Brigg	63
Cleethorpes M.B.	84	Gainsborough	31
Gainsborough	60	Grimsby	88
Horncastle	94	Horncastle	64
Louth M.B.	95	Isle of Axholme	78
Mablethorpe	90	Louth	90
Market Rasen	50	Spilsby	75
Scunthorpe M.B.	56	Welton	39
Skegness	84		
Woodhall Spa	60		

DEATHS IN BRIGG URBAN DISTRICT—1944

	Males	Females
Respiratory Tuberculosis	—	1
Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis	—	3
Influenza	2	—
Cancer of Mouth, Oesothagus and Uterus	—	1
Cancer of Stomach	—	1
Cancer other Sites	—	1
Cancer of Breast	—	—
Diabites	—	2
Cerebral Haemorrhage	—	4
Heart Disease	3	4
Circulatory Disease	—	1
Bronchitis	1	1
Pneumonia	1	—
Other Respiratory Diseases	2	—
Gastric Duodenal Ulcers	1	—
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	—	—
Digestive diseases	1	1
Nephritis	1	1
Puerperal Sepsis	—	—
Premature Birth	1	—
Infantile Malnutrition, etc.	—	—
Suicide	—	—
Road Traffic Accident	1	1
Violence	—	1
All other causes	3	—
Total (all causes)	17	23

WATER SUPPLIES

These are satisfactory except for Beech Villas, Westrum Lane and certain parts of Bridge Street. Water is supplied by the North Lindsey Water Board. Increased pressure would be of advantage in Hawthorn Avenue. Details of the source of the Water are to be found in my reports of previous years.

Approximately 75% of Houses in town are on Public Supply.

BRIGG URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT OF WORK DONE BY SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1944

TOTAL No. OF NEW HOUSES ERECTED DURING THE YEAR ..... nil
(I.) By the Local Authority ..... nil
(II.) By other Local Authorities ..... nil
(III.) By other bodies or persons ..... nil

1.—INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR :—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 84
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose .. 84
(2) (a) No. of dwelling-houses (included under Sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 ..... —
(b) No. of inspections made for the purpose ..... —
(3) No. of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 16
(4) No. of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 6

2.—REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES :—

No. of Defective Dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers 3

3.—ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR :—

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 36 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—
(1) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs 3
(2) No. of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—
(a) by owners 3
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners..... —
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—
(1) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 4
(2) No. of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—
(a) by owners 4

(b) by Local Authority in default of owners ..... —

(c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ..... nil.

(2) No. of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ..... nil

(3) No. of dwelling-houses subject to undertakings .. nil

(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) No. of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made nil

(2) No. of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit. ..... Nil

4. HOUSING ACT, 1936.—PART IV.—OVERCROWDING

(a) (I.) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year ..... Unknown

(II.) Number of families dwelling therein .. ,,

(III.) Number of persons dwelling therein .. ,,

(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year 1

(c) (I.) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year 1

(II.) Number of persons concerned in such cases.. 1

(d) Number of houses again overcrowded after being previously relieved ..... —

COMMON LODGING-HOUSES

No. registered under by-laws ..... nil
No. of inspections made ..... nil
No. of contraventions of by-laws ..... nil
No. of contraventions remedied ..... nil

CANAL BOATS USED AS DWELLING-HOUSES

No. registered under Acts ..... nil
No. of Inspections ..... nil
No. of contraventions of regulations ..... nil
No. of contraventions remedied ..... nil

MOVABLE DWELLINGS, TENTS, VANS, &c.

No. inspected during year 2
No. of nuisances therefrom abated ..... nil
No. removed from district ..... nil

BAKEHOUSES

No. in district	7
No. of underground bakehouses	nil
No. of Inspections (*Full Record and Inspection now in Force*).	6
Contraventions of Factory Acts	nil
Defects remedied	nil

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES

No. on Register	nil
No. of Inspections	nil
Contraventions of by-laws	nil
Defects remedied	nil

COWSHEDS

No. on register	5
No. of Inspections (*full Record and Inspection now in force*)	5
Contraventions of regulations	nil
Contraventions remedied	nil
No. of milch cows in district	40

DAIRIES AND MILK SHOPS

No. on register	23
No. of Inspections (*full Record and Inspection now in force*)	14
Contraventions of regulations	nil
Contraventions remedied	nil
Any instance of disease attributed to milk during the year	nil

UNSOUND FOOD

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

The only slaughtering carried out has been of a private nature.—*i.e.* Householders' Pigs.

Number killed if known—Cattle excluding Cows	nil
Cows	nil
Calves	nil
Sheep and Lambs	nil
Pigs	Not known
Number inspected :—	
Cattle excluding Cows	nil
Cows	nil
Calves	nil
Sheep and Lambs	nil
Pigs	3
All diseases except Tuberculosis :—	
Whole carcases condemned	nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	nil

Tuberculosis only :—

Whole carcases condemned ..... nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned .. nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ..... nil

OFFENSIVE TRADES

No. of premises in district ..... nil
No. of Inspections ..... nil
Contraventions of by-laws ..... nil
Contraventions remedied ..... nil

SHOPS ACT, 1934

Number of shops inspected 6
(*System of Inspection now Instituted*).
Additional heating or ventilation ..... nil
Additional sanitary conveniences ..... nil

WATER SUPPLY

Wells :
New sunk ..... nil
Cleansed, repaired ..... nil
Close as polluted ..... nil

Public Supply :

Area supplied, all district except West Moor Road and North side of Bridge Street.
Precentage of houses supplied 75%
New Cisterns provided 4
Cisterns cleansed, repaired, covered, etc. ..... nil

Number of samples obtained for analysis :

(a) from wells ..... nil
(b) from public supply ..... nil

Any insufficiency and where (Bridge Street, Brigg, due to absence of main).

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Closets :—

No. of houses with privy vaults in district .... not known
No. of houses with pail closets in district .... approx. 400
No. of pail closets substituted for privy vaults ..... nil
No. of pail closets repaired 6
No. of water-closets substituted for dry receptacles 6
No. of houses with water-closets in district .. approx .750
No. of water-closets repaired 50

Drains :—

Drains examined, tested, exposed, &c.	12
Drains unstopped, repaired, trapped, &c.	nil
Waste pipes, rain water pipes disconnected, repaired, &c.	nil
New soil pipes or ventilating shafts fixed	3
Existing soil pipes or ventilating shafts repaired	nil
Drains reconstructed	5

Sewers :—

New lengths of sewer laid	nil

Tanks, Filter Beds, &c.

Alterations to sewage disposal works	New Scheme approved
Any inadequacy of sewage disposal works	Yes

Cesspools :—

Cesspools rendered impervious	nil
,, emptied, cleansed, &c.	6
,, abolished	under consideration

Disinfection :

Rooms disinfected	16
(a) ordinary infectious disease	16
(b) tuberculosis	nil
Rooms stripped and cleansed	nil
Articles disinfected or destroyed	16
(a) ordinary infectious disease	16
(b) tuberculosis	nil

HOUSE REFUSE

No. of covered ashpits	Not Known
,, uncovered ashpits	nil
,, bins substituted for ashpits	nil
,, houses using bins	approx. 1000
No. of complaints of non-removal	nil
Method of final disposal	Tipping

House Refuse is removed by Public Scavenger weekly and present arrangements are satisfactory.

NUISANCES

Total Number of Nuisances during year :—

(1) Abated as result of informal action by Sanitary Inspector approx. 30

(2) Reported to Council :

Statutory notice issued	nil
Statutory notice not issued	nil

DETAILS OF NUISANCES ABATED

	After Informal Intimation	After Statutory Notice
Overcrowding	—	—
Smoke	—	—
Accumulation of refuse	1	—
Foul ditches, ponds and stagnant water	1	—
Foul pigs and other animals	—	—
Dampness	2	—
Yards repaved or repaired	—	—
Other nuisances	—	—

Supplementary Remarks as to Sanitary requirements of District :—

Since my appointment in May 1944, most of the work has been in connection with sewage works repair, new pumping station etc., with the results that little time has been devoted to routine inspection.

Unfortunately, all work was very much behind and it will require time to get the department on to a sound working basis. Shops, bakehouses and milk are subjects which are now receiving attention.

A. ANDERSON,
Sanitary Inspector